Talking About the Japanese Weather

Learn how to talk about the weather and the air temperature

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Also Appears In: Conversational Japanese for Absolute Beginners, Absolute Beginner Season 2

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Dialogue - Japanese

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Kanji | English | Rōmaji | All

(In the elevator)

A: （Sneeze）うー。さむい！

きょうは さむいですね。

B: そうですね。

ほんとうに さむいですね。

(Ding!)

A: せんせい、さようなら。

B: さようなら。

Vocabulary

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English | Kana | Rōmaji

ほんとうに 【ほんとうに】
really, truly
1 EXAMPLE
ほんとうにすみません。
I'm really sorry.

そうですね。 【そうですね。】
That's right.
1 EXAMPLE
あ、そうですね。
Oh, yes, that's right.

ね 【ね】
isn't it? (sentence ending particle)
1 EXAMPLE
あたたかいですね。
It's warm, isn't it?

さようなら。 【さようなら。】
Goodbye.
3 EXAMPLES
彼女は、彼氏にさようなら を言うのが悲しかった。
She was sad to say goodbye to her boyfriend.
かのじょは、かれしにさようなら をいうのがかなしかった。
さようなら、また明日会いましょう！
Goodbye, I'll see you tomorrow.
さようなら、またあしたあいましょう！
みなさん、さようなら。
Good bye, everyone.

さむい 【さむい】
cold ; Adj(i)
1 EXAMPLE
さむいですか。
Are you cold?

せんせい 【せんせい】
teacher
1 EXAMPLE
たなかせんせい、おはようございます。
Good morning, Mr. Tanaka.

きょう 【きょう】
today
1 EXAMPLE
きょうはあついです。
It's hot today.

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Lesson Notes

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Lesson Focus

The Focus of This Lesson Is Describing What the Weather Is Like Today.
きょうはさむいですね。
Kyō wa samui desu ne.
"It's cold today, isn't it?"

The weather and temperature are always the safest topics for making small talk, aren't they! ;)

In this lesson, you'll learn how to describe the day's weather and temperature using the *A wa B desu* ("A is B") sentence structure.

Vocabulary List: Adjectives Describing Air Temperature

We'll introduce you to four adjectives describing the air temperature. They're really useful, so try to memorize them all!

JAPANESE	"ENGLISH"
atsui	"hot"
samui	"cold"
atatakai	"warm"
suzushii	"cool"

Describing the Day's Temperature

When the particle *ne*, which seeks agreement from the listening party, follows the *A wa B desu* (A is B) sentence pattern, the translation would be "A is B, isn't it?" If you insert *kyō*, meaning "today," instead of A, you can describe what today is like.

Sentence Pattern:

***Kyō wa*, [adjective] *desu ne*. → "It's [adjective] isn't it? "**

Sample Sentences

1. ***Kyō wa atsui desu ne.***
きょう は あつい **ですね。**
"It's hot today, isn't it?"
2. ***Kyō wa suzushii desu ne.***
きょう は すずしい **ですね。**
"It's cool today, isn't it?"

When you agree with the statement, use the phrase *sō desu ne*.

For Example:

1. A: *Kyō wa. atatakai desu ne.* （きょう はあたたかいですね。）
B: *Sō desu ne.*（そう ですね。）
A: "It's warm today, isn't it?"
B: "Yes, it is."

Reference

- *ne* (sentence-ending particle) → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 20
- *sō desu* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 9
- *hontō ni* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson14

Key Vocabulary & Phrases

★ せんせい (Sensei)
Sensei, as you probably already know, means "teacher." Unlike the English word "teacher," though, we often use *sensei* for directly addressing a teacher instead of his or her name, and we also use it as a name suffix. For example, a teacher called Mr. Tanaka would be called either *Tanaka-sensei* or just simply *sensei* by his students.

★ さようなら (Sayōnara)
Pay attention to the pronunciation since this word is actually a bit tricky! It's not *sayonara*, but *sa*ōnara. You have to prolong the [o:] sound and make the *-y* softer. *Sayōnara* means "good-bye" or "see you later" and has a somewhat formal connotation. Among friends, じゃ、また (*ja, mata*), meaning "see you, then," is more common.

- To teachers → *Sayōnara*
- To friends → *Ja, mata*.

★ そうですね。(*Sō desu ne.*)
The phrase *sō desu ne*.means "that is so" or "that's right." It expresses the speaker's agreement with what she or he has just heard when it's followed by the particle *ne*, meaning "isn't it?"

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Grammar

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Below is a list of the grammar points introduced or used in this lesson. Click for a full explanation.

ね *ne*
tag question (*isn't it? right? eh?*) — *Introduced*

は *wa*
Topic maker, As for — *Used*

です *desu*
to be (copula) — *Used*

Lesson Transcript

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